

## Tips for Square 1

1. Mother's Day is May 12. Cards for the children to color and give to their mothers can be downloaded and printed. Remember to be sensitive to children who may not have a relationship with their mothers or whose mothers are deceased. Allow those children to give their cards to another special person in his or her life.
2. Plastic eggs can be used in a variety of ways. Look for them on sale around Easter time.
3. Utilize the *Get Ready!* section of the Teaching Guide. Before the month begins, look to see what items will need to be gathered and bought for the unit. Waiting until the last minute leads to the stress of scrambling to find some of the items.
4. Once a quarter, send home a list to parents of items for crafts that are often used at home: egg cartons, paper towel tubes, toilet paper tubes, washed and empty applesauce containers (great for holding paint), etc.
5. Laminate matching pictures from the quarters for durability. Place them in a large plastic storage bag to be used anytime for a quick center.

Welcome to the D6 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen. curriculum! Here are a few helpful hints and ideas to help you get started!

1. If you're new to the CLEAR Learning System, page 2 of the Teaching Guide will help explain the different aspects of it. Page 2 also provides highlights of our curriculum.
2. Page 3 provides an explanation for the various icons that are featured in each lesson.
3. Page 5 of the Teaching Guide describes the components related to Square 1. Look through your teaching guide, the *Teaching Essentials* packet, and the *Kids' Cards* together to understand how each part is used. Use the *Cuddle Time Bible Storybook* each quarter as a supplement to the lesson.

4. Cut apart just the Teaching Pictures for the first month in the *Teaching Essentials* packet or cut out all the Teaching Pictures and divide them by months (two-gallon plastic bags work well for this). Use the Preparation Checklist on page 4 to help you know what things are needed each quarter. Highlight items you will need to gather for the lessons in the quarter. Be sure you have them all and know where they are so they will be easily accessible when you need them.
5. Make a copy of all the reproducibles at the beginning of the month. Place them in the plastic bag or a file folder. Be sure to always have a few extras for visitors. Have a separate bag or file folder for the *Take 'n Talks*.
6. Read through all the lessons for each unit at the beginning of the month. Then review the lesson at the beginning of each week. Begin the week by gathering items for any of the CONNECT, Craft, and Bible Activities you will need for that week's lesson. Do NOT wait until Saturday to begin preparing.
7. Choose Craft and Bible activities that best fit the needs of your classroom. You know your children best. Feel free to adapt any of these to the personalities of your children.
8. Download Home Connection for your parents. It is a one-stop resource for connecting the entire family based on the D6 curriculum. It is free and available at [www.d6home.com](http://www.d6home.com).
9. Download and copy some of the bonus coloring pages at [www.d6teacher.com](http://www.d6teacher.com) to use in art centers, to send home with the children, or for when services run long.
10. Pray each day for your students and that God will use you to teach His Word.